UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

CALIFORNIA FISHERY MARKET NEWS MONTHLY SUMMARY

JUNE 1967

PART II–Fishing Information*

Sea-surface temperatures, fishing and research information of interest to the West Coast tuna-fishing industry and marine scientists

CONTENTS

	Page
Now is the Time for Albacore Action	1
Baja California Bluefin Tuna Fishery Underway	3
Eastern Pacific Yellowfin Tuna Regulation Closure Applied on June 24	4
Sea Surface Temperature Charts, Eastern Pacific Ocean, June 1967	5

Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
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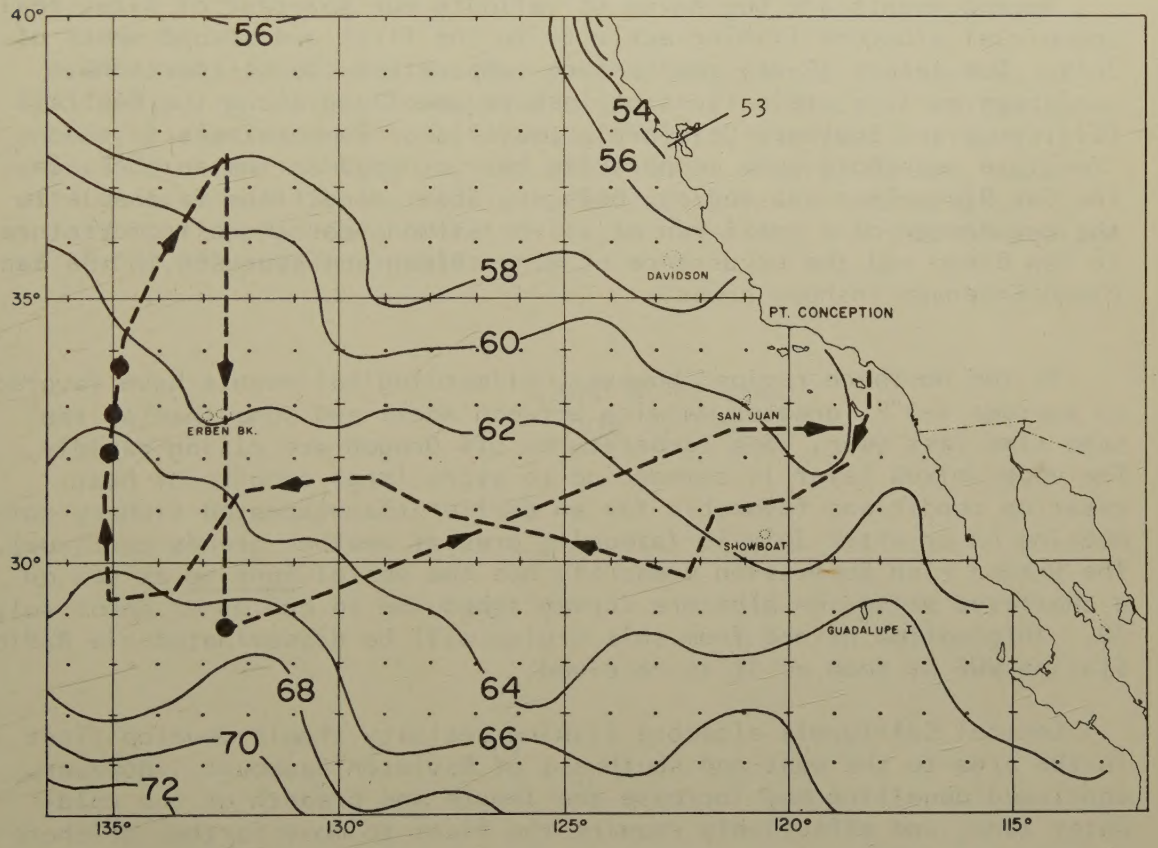
*Part 1 - "Fishery Products Production and Market Data" is issued by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Market News Service, Post Office Building, San Pedro, California

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALBACORE ACTION

R/V N. B. Scofield, operated by the California Department of Fish and Game, completed a 3,000-mile preseason albacore tuna survey on June 25. Scofield's journey, beginning on May 26, proceeded southwesterly from San Pedro to near 30°N., 122°W., thence westerly to near 29°N., 135°W., thence northerly to 37.5°N., 132.5°W., and southward again to 28.5°N., 132.5°W. before working northeastward to port via San Juan Seamount.

Four albacore from 6 to 16 pounds were landed during the cruise. Fish were taken on June 6 and 7, and again on June 15 in the general area of Erben Bank, approximately 1,000 miles west of San Diego (see cut). Sea temperatures ranged from 60.4°F. to 66.6°F. Winds and sea conditions encountered by Scofield during the survey were relatively good near the coast and very good in the Erben Bank region.



Cruise track of R/V N. B. Scofield, May 26-June 25, 1966, superimposed on sea surface isotherm field for June 1-15 interval. Solid black dots on track line represent single albacore catches on June 5, 6 and 15, 1967, respectively.

Sea temperature conditions during June showed rapid warming in the Oregon-Washington offshore area in the third and fourth weeks, whereas in the Central-Southern California region, sea surface temperatures dropped 1-3°F. as coastal upwelling began to develop on a broad scale. At month's end, sea temperatures on San Juan Seamount and the Showboat Spot were finally beginning to rise. Mixed layer depths remained shallow in the Guadalupe, San Juan and Davidson Seamount regions, reflecting nearshore wind mixing and relatively slow summer heat storage during the month.

A few boats departed for the fishing grounds in the last week of June. The first verified commercial catch was reported by the vessel Niles II about 60-75 miles WNW of San Juan Seamount on July 2. About 23 10-12 pound albacore were landed by the vessel Mercury at Morro Bay on July 5; these fish were taken during a 5-day run south from Moss Landing toward Cortez Bank, southwest of San Clemente Island. The vessel Cherokee also logged her first catch of the season on July 5, approximately 180 miles southwest of San Pedro.

Recent events are beginning to validate our forecast of first real commercial albacore fishing activity in the first and second weeks of July. Our latest 15-day sea surface temperature change charts have confirmed earlier indications of inshore upwelling along the Central California and Southern California coastline. Temperatures in the immediate nearshore zone temporarily have dropped as low as 58°F. in the San Diego-Ensenada region, bringing about conditions favorable to the occurrence of a small run of silver salmon near shore from Ventura to San Diego and the occurrence of king salmon and sturgeon in the San Diego-Ensenada inshore areas.

In the northern region, however, climatological events have favored an average 1-3°F. greater warming between April and June than at the same time last year. Sea temperatures off Oregon are rising rapidly. The upper mixed layer is commencing to store large amounts of heat, creating conditions favorable for an earlier-than-expected fishery commencing on or after July 15 (assuming present weather trends continue). The Oregon Fish Commission presently has the vessel Sunrise at sea on a chartered preseason albacore survey scheduled to end on or about July 10. Information gained from this cruise will be disseminated via Radio Station WWD as soon as it is received.

Central California albacore fishing activity should develop first in the area to the west and southwest of Davidson Seamount. However, continued upwelling may increase the length and breadth of the cold-water zone, and effectively require the fleet to move farther offshore to encounter the optimum temperature band. Commercial-scale fishing should be well underway by late July, unless strong northwesterly winds and rough seas prevail over the 100-mile reach near shore and prevent or restrict vessel access to the best fishing areas.

Glenn A. Flittner
July 7, 1967

BAJA CALIFORNIA BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY UNDERWAY

The first verified reports of bluefin tuna fishing activity were received by this laboratory on June 1. Bluefin were reported being taken in the Uncle Sam Bank-Point Tosco offshore region in 65°-67°F. water. Fishing activity for bluefin began slowly as most boats concentrated on very good yellowfin and skipjack fishing near Cape San Lucas and up into the Gulf of California. However, by month-end as a yellowfin tuna catch quota regulation became effective on June 24, bluefin effort began to skyrocket as 50-70 vessels assembled on the fishing grounds off Cape San Lazaro. A large number of vessels had returned to port to discharge their fares and put to sea again on "open tickets" prior to the yellowfin season closure. Subsequently, these boats assembled on the bluefin grounds during the last week of the month. Reliable sources stated that approximately 2,312 tons of bluefin have been hailed by the high seas fleet during the last week of the month, bringing the cumulative 1967 total landed and still at sea to 2,869 tons for the period ending July 30.

Continuation of good weather in the Central and Southern Baja California region should enable the purse seine fleet to establish another early-season production record again this year. Effort is expected to remain high, and the addition of several modern, more efficient vessels to the fleet in the past 2 years should result in total bluefin production for the season exceeding the 1961-66 average of 26,060,969 pounds (13,030 tons).

Glenn A. Flittner
July 7, 1967

EASTERN PACIFIC YELLOWFIN TUNA REGULATION CLOSURE APPLIED ON JUNE 24

The yellowfin tuna fishing season in the eastern Pacific Ocean regulatory area closed at noon (1200 hours) local time on Saturday, June 24, 1967. The closure was announced in the Federal Register published on that date. The U. S. yellowfin tuna regulations were published in the June 23 issue of the Federal Register and incorporated those amendments published in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making as announced in the May 27, 1967 Federal Register issue, as well as changes which were published as a result of the public hearing held at San Diego, California on June 6. Prior to the public hearing, a meeting of the International Advisory Committee to the U. S. was held in San Diego on June 5. Copies of the closure notices and the U. S. tuna fishing regulations have been supplied to the industry and fishermen and boat owners' associations. Copies of an abstract of the regulations as well as the regulations themselves can be obtained from the Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, 101 Seaside Avenue, Terminal Island, California 90731. A placard containing an abstract of the U. S. tuna regulations suitable for posting in a vessel's wheelhouse is also being prepared for future distribution.

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE CHARTS, EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

JUNE 1967

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U.S. Naval Communication Station Balboa, Fort Amador, Canal Zone
U.S. Naval Weather Service, Fleet Numerical Weather Facility, Monterey, California
California Department of Fish and Game, R/V N.B. Scofield
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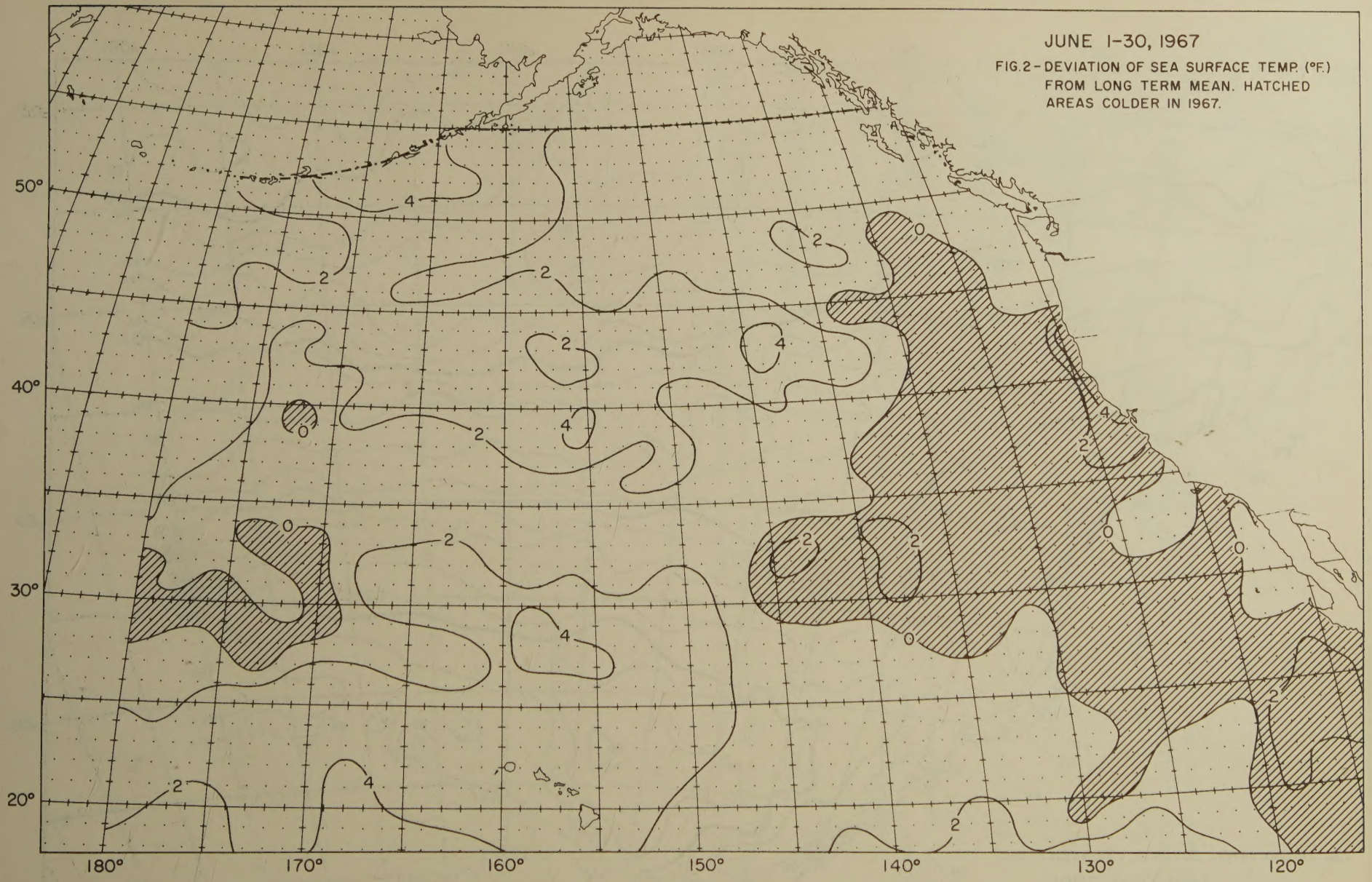
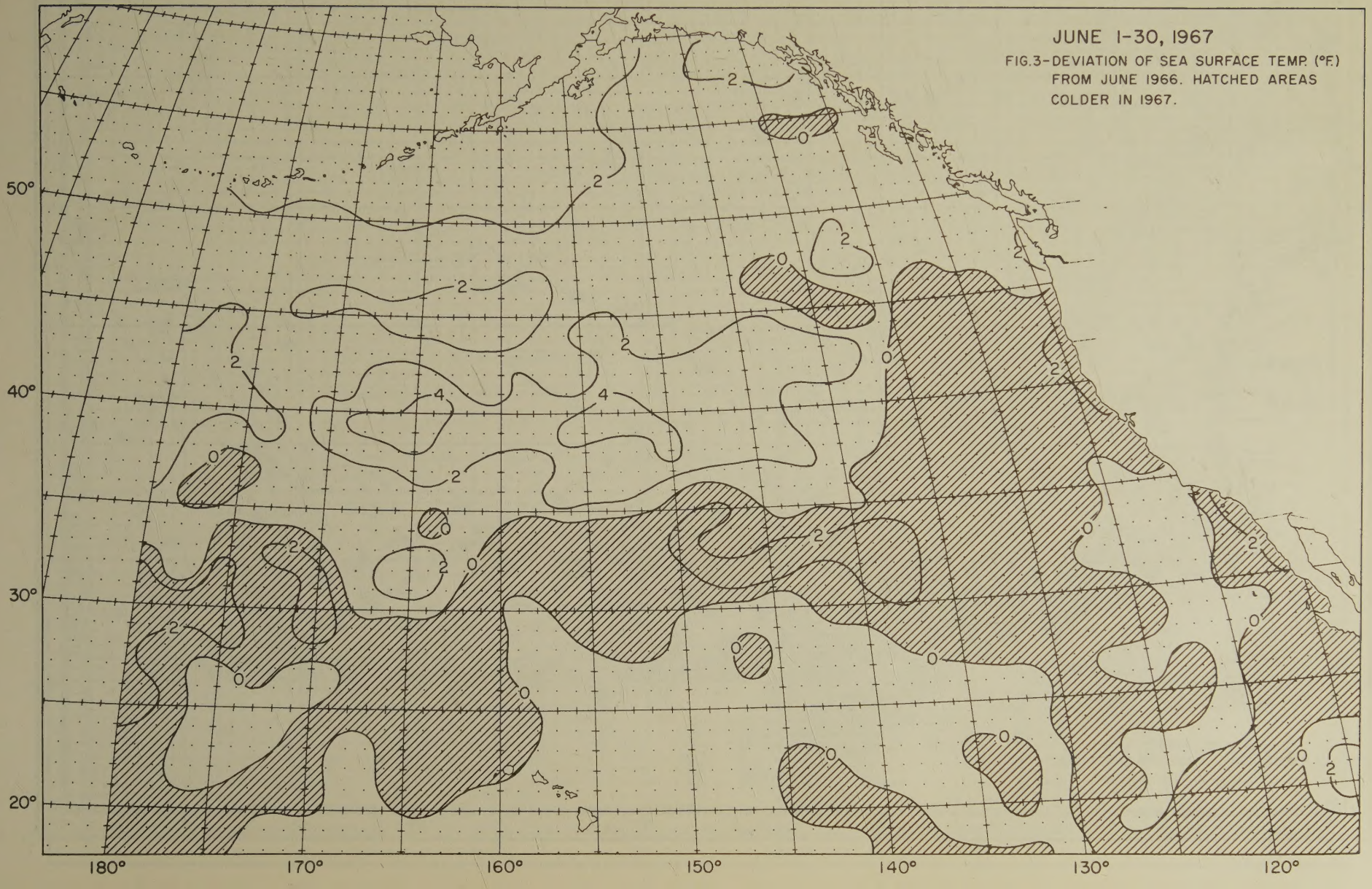
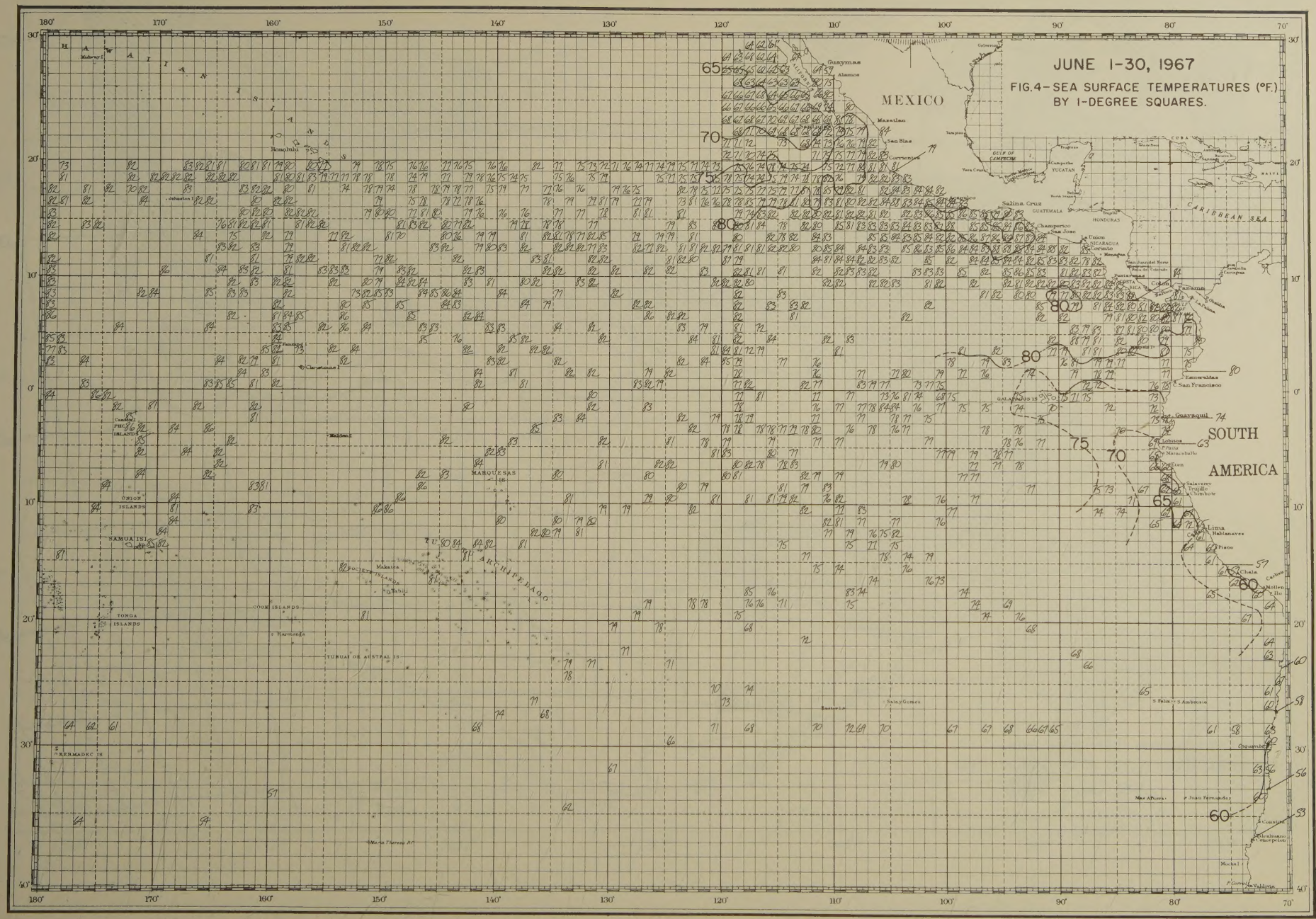
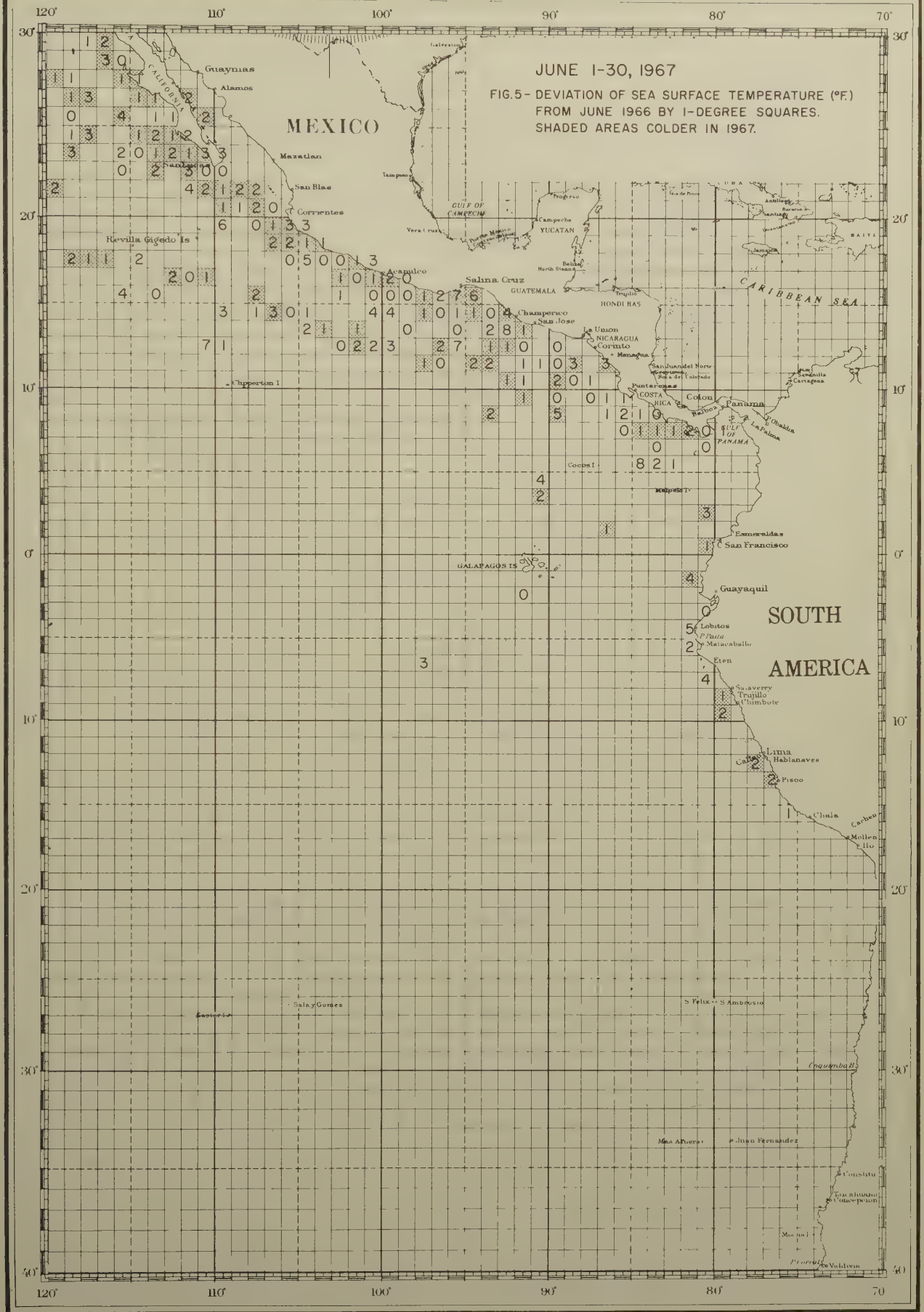
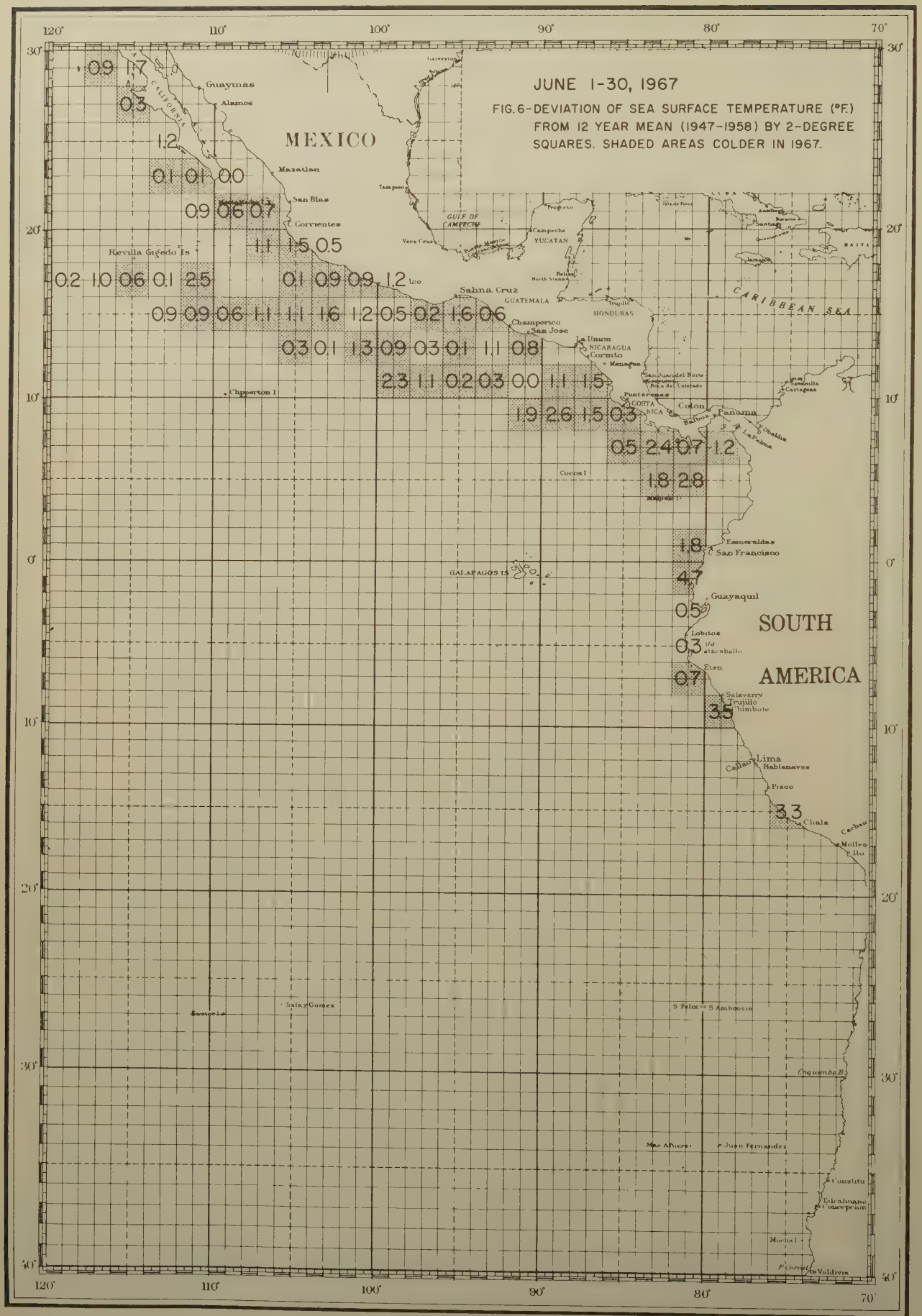
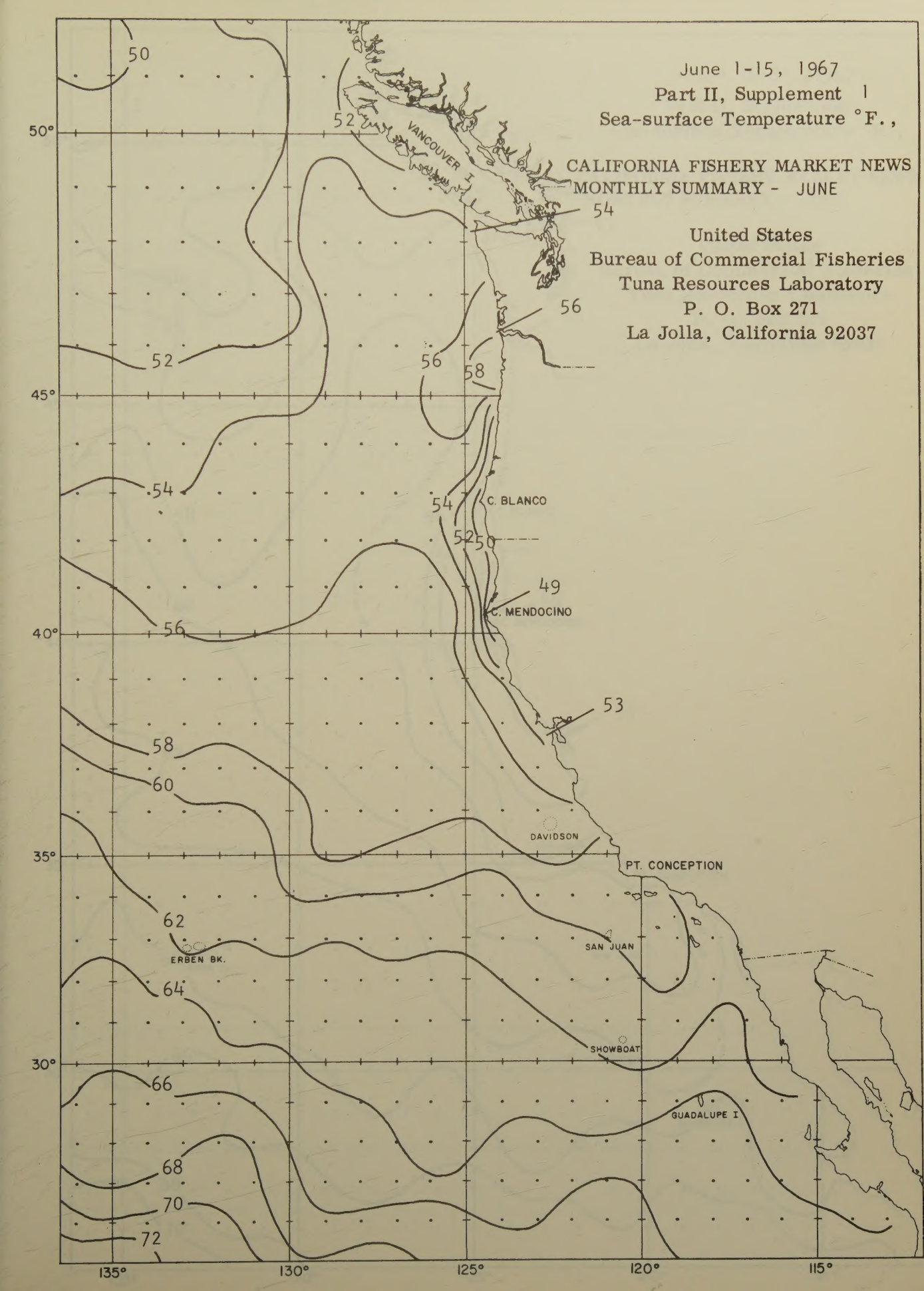

JUNE 1-30, 1967
FIG. 2 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F.) FROM LONG TERM MEAN. HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1967.
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°


JUNE 1-30, 1967
FIG.3-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F.) FROM JUNE 1966. HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1967.
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°


JUNE 1-30, 1967
FIG. 4 - SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES (°F.) BY 1-DEGREE SQUARES.
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
Honolulu
Midway I.
Guaymas
Alamos
Mazatlan
San Blas
Salina Cruz
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
Corinto
Champerico
San Jose
Panama
Balboa
Cristobal
Colon
Esmeraldas
San Francisco
Guayaquil
Lobitos
Salaverry
Trujillo
Chimbote
Lima
Callao
Pisco
Chala
Mollendo
Arica
Iquique
Antofagasta
GALAPAGOS IS.
CLIPPERTON I.
Christmas I.
Canton I.
PHOENIX ISLANDS
Malden I.
MARQUESAS IS.
UNION ISLANDS
SAMOA ISLS.
TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO
Makatea
Tahiti
SOCIETY ISLANDS
COOK ISLANDS
TONGA ISLANDS
Nukualofa
TURUAU OR AUSTRAL IS.
KERMADEC IS.
Easter I.
Sala y Gomez
Juan Fernandez
Mas Afuera
Mocha I.
65
70
75
80
60
55
50
30°
20°
10°
0°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
110°
100°
90°
80°
70°


JUNE 1-30, 1967
FIG.5- DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F.) FROM JUNE 1966 BY 1-DEGREE SQUARES. SHADED AREAS COLDER IN 1967.
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GULF OF CAMPECHE
GULF OF PANAMA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
YUCATAN
CUBA
HAITI
JAMAICA
GALAPAGOS IS
Guaymas
Alamos
Mazatlan
San Blas
Corrientes
Revilla Gigedo Is
Acapulco
Salina Cruz
Champerico
San Jose
Union
Cortuto
Managua
Punta Arenas
Colon
Panama
Cocos I
Esmeraldas
San Francisco
Guayaquil
Lobitos
Talara
Paita
Matacaballo
Eten
Salaverry
Trujillo
Chimbote
Lima
Callao
Hablanaves
Pisco
Chala
Cachus
Mollendo
Ilo
Salas y Gomez
S. Felix
S. Ambrosio
Juan Fernandez
Mas Afuera
Valdivia
Corcovado G.
Constitu
Talcahuano
Concepcion
Mocha I.


JUNE 1-30, 1967
FIG. 6-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F.) FROM 12 YEAR MEAN (1947-1958) BY 2-DEGREE SQUARES. SHADED AREAS COLDER IN 1967.
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GULF OF CAMPECHE
GALAPAGOS IS
Guaymas
Alamos
Mazatlan
San Blas
Corrientes
Salina Cruz
Champerico
San Jose
Corinto
Managua
Punta Arenas
Colon
Panama
Cocos I
Esmeraldas
San Francisco
Guayaquil
Lobitos
Eten
Salaverry
Trujillo
Chimbote
Lima
Callao
Habianaves
Pisco
Chala
Salas y Gomez
S. Felix
S. Ambrosio
Juan Fernandez
Valdivia
0.9 1.7
0.3
1.2
0.1 0.1 0.0
0.9 0.6 0.7
1.1 1.5 0.5
0.2 1.0 0.6 0.1 2.5
0.1 0.9 0.9 1.2
0.9 0.9 0.6 1.1 1.1 1.6 1.2 0.5 0.2 1.6 0.6
0.3 0.1 1.3 0.9 0.3 0.1 1.1 0.8
2.3 1.1 0.2 0.3 0.0 1.1 1.5
1.9 2.6 1.5 0.3
0.5 2.4 0.7 1.2
1.8 2.8
1.8
4.7
0.5
0.3
0.7
3.5
3.3


June 1-15, 1967
Part II, Supplement 1
Sea-surface Temperature °F.,
CALIFORNIA FISHERY MARKET NEWS
MONTHLY SUMMARY - JUNE
United States
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Tuna Resources Laboratory
P. O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92037
50°
45°
40°
35°
30°
135°
130°
125°
120°
115°
VANCOUVER I
C. BLANCO
C. MENDOCINO
DAVIDSON
PT. CONCEPTION
SAN JUAN
SHOWBOAT
GUADALUPE I
ERBEN BK.
50
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72
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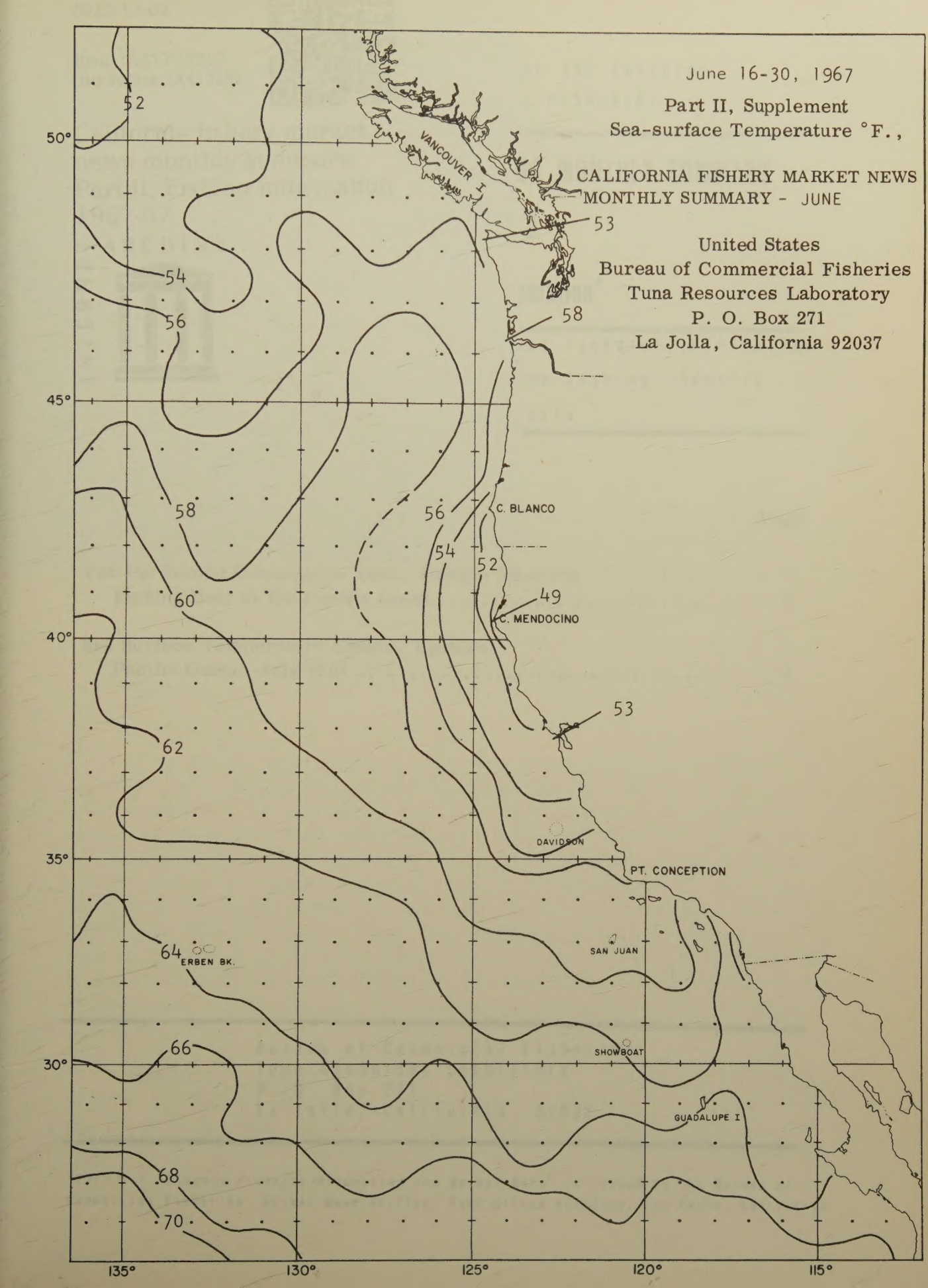
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Part II, Supplement
Sea-surface Temperature °F.,
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United States
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
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P. O. Box 271
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VANCOUVER I
C. BLANCO
C. MENDOCINO
DAVIDSON
PT. CONCEPTION
SAN JUAN
SHOWBOAT
GUADALUPE I
ERBEN BK.
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40°
35°
30°
135°
130°
125°
120°
115°